Guide to...
Writing a personal statement

This is your time to show the Admissions Specialists that:

- You are suited to the course
- You are conscientious, hardworking and can stay the length of the course
- You have researched, and are dedicated to, your chosen course
- You will be able to adjust to a university environment.

75% academic, focusing on your chosen course

- Why have you chosen this subject?
- What particularly interests you about this subject?
- Where has this interest come from?
- Show your competence in the subject
- What independent reading or research have you done?

25% extra-curricular

- Relevant work experience
- Subject-related activities
- Career aspirations
- Unrelated activities.

Personal statement top tips...

1. Use evidence – show you'd be a great student by linking experience from your studies and other activities to the course.

2. Be honest – don't be tempted to exaggerate. Admissions specialists often refer to personal statements during interviews.

3. Start early – you'll probably redraft your statement several times before you're happy with it, so allow yourself plenty of time.

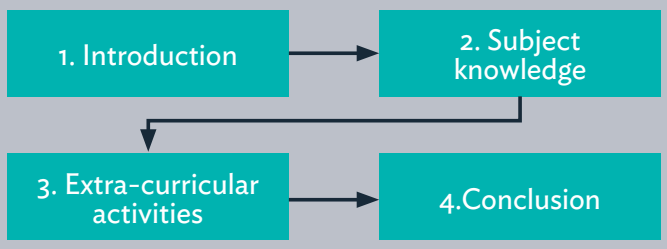
4. Let friends and family read it – they may have suggestions you haven't considered and can tell you whether it makes sense.

5. Proofread it several times – reading it out loud will help you to spot bad punctuation and messy wording.

6. Use a simple structure – such as the one shown below.

7. Remember – you only have 47 lines or 4,000 characters including spaces.

There's more advice on personal statements at **ucas.com/personalstatement**



Flow structure:

The four boxes are different paragraphs.

- Your introduction should introduce your interest in the course.
- The subject knowledge will expand and provide evidence of why you'll be good at the subject.
- Discuss any extra curricular activities that are relevant to your studies.
- Conclude with why you want to study to degree level, explaining how a degree will help you achieve your future plans and career aspirations.

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